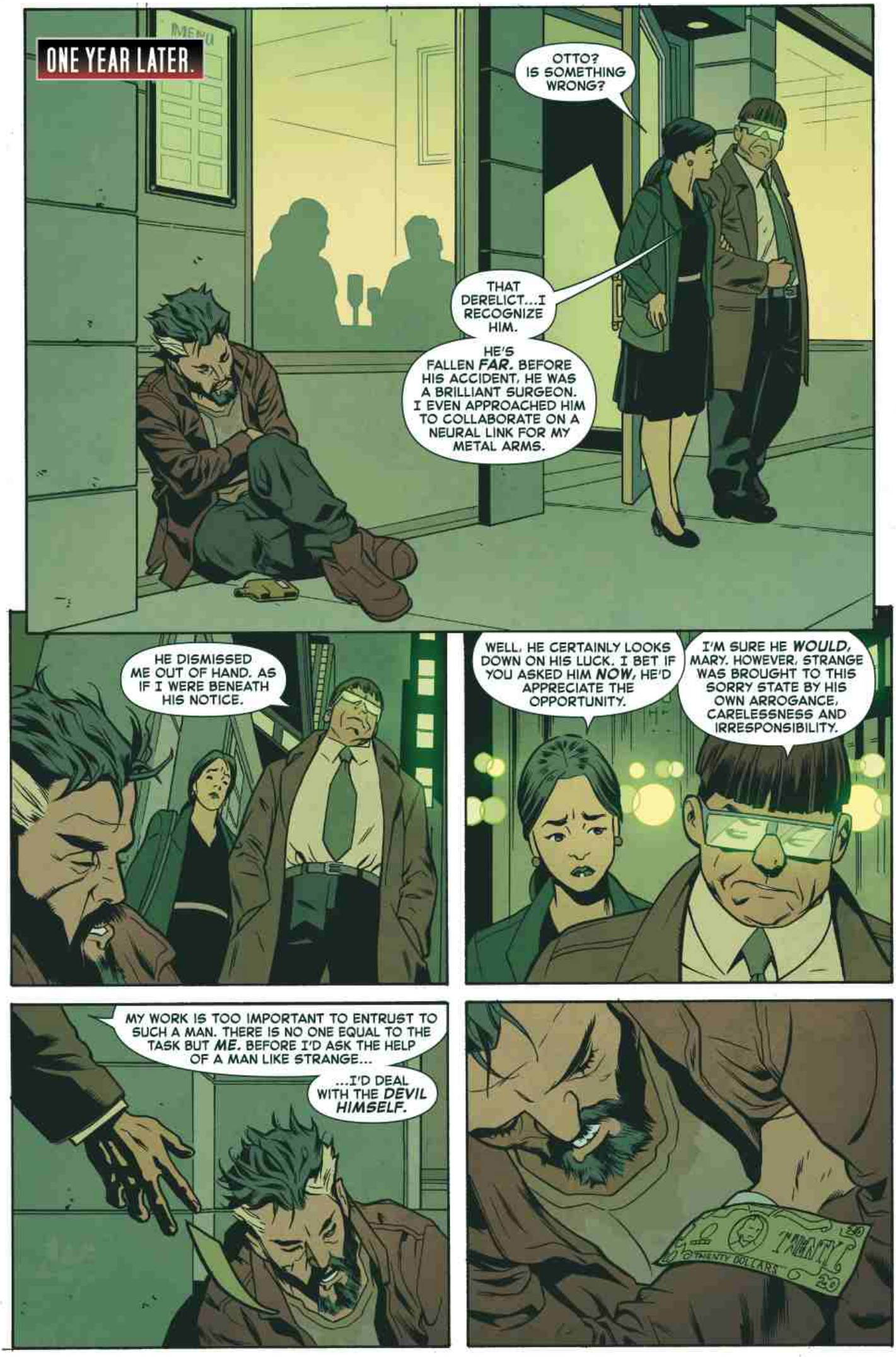
YEARS AGO.
YOUR FINGERS ARE BEAUTIFUL, STEPHEN. SO LONG AND FLEXIBLE, LIKE A GUITAR PLAYER'S.
PLEASE. GUITARISTS HAVE CALLUSES.
DR. STRANGE!
I'M DR. OTTO OCTAVIUS, WITH THE ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER. I WAS INTRIGUED BY YOUR PRESENTATION AT THE SYMPOSIUM.
I'VE DEVELOPED ARTIFICIAL ARMS FOR HANDLING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND I HAVE SOME EXCITING THEORIES ABOUT A NEUROLOGICAL LINK.
I'D BE INTERESTED TO GET YOUR INPUT--
YES, OF COURSE, OCTAVIAN. CALL MY OFFICE, SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.
I THINK I'M FREE ON THE TWELFTH OF NEVER.
OH, STEPHEN.
YOU'RE SO BAD.


ONE YEAR LATER.
OTTO? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
THAT DERELICT...I RECOGNIZE HIM.
HE'S FALLEN FAR. BEFORE HIS ACCIDENT, HE WAS A BRILLIANT SURGEON. I EVEN APPROACHED HIM TO COLLABORATE ON A NEURAL LINK FOR MY METAL ARMS.
HE DISMISSED ME OUT OF HAND. AS IF I WERE BENEATH HIS NOTICE.
WELL, HE CERTAINLY LOOKS DOWN ON HIS LUCK. I BET IF YOU ASKED HIM NOW, HE'D APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY.
I'M SURE HE WOULD, MARY. HOWEVER, STRANGE WAS BROUGHT TO THIS SORRY STATE BY HIS OWN ARROGANCE, CARELESSNESS AND IRRESPONSIBILITY.
MY WORK IS TOO IMPORTANT TO ENTRUST TO SUCH A MAN. THERE IS NO ONE EQUAL TO THE TASK BUT ME. BEFORE I'D ASK THE HELP OF A MAN LIKE STRANGE...
...I'D DEAL WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF.
TWENTY
TWENTY DOLLARS

NOW.
FWOOAARR
THIS IS SCIENTIFICALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
YES. BUT MAGICALLY, VERY POSSIBLE.
MASTER PANDEMONIUM'S BODY HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMPOSED OF DEMONS. HE'S JUST ADDED A FEW THOUSAND MORE.

YOU MUST HAVE SOME SPELL THAT CAN SEPARATE HIS BODY INTO ITS COMPONENT DEMONS!
MUST I?
I DO HAVE A FEW. BUT THESE AREN'T ORDINARY DEMONS. THEY'RE POSSESSED HUMANS... INNOCENTS.
ANY MAGIC POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SEPARATE THEM WOULD LIKELY KILL THEM AS WELL.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE USELESS AS EVER.
BUY ME A MOMENT TO ANALYZE THIS MONSTROSITY.
SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY...
FZZZZ
FZZZZ
HMM... INTERESTING.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO SHARE YOUR FINDINGS?

DOCTORS. ALWAYS TALKING SHOP.
BRACE YOURSELF!
I'M READY--
HSSSAAHH!
WHAT--?

CAREFUL! THESE ARE--
CIVILIANS, I KNOW! ARE WE TO SIT IDLY BY AND LET THEM MURDER US?
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS TO THE REST OF THE CITY THEN?
MY SCAN SHOWED THAT, WHILE PANDEMONIUM IS COMPOSED OF THESE CREATURES, THEIR ASSEMBLED STRUCTURE MIMICS HUMAN ANATOMY...
...DOWN TO THE INTERNAL ORGANS. THEREFORE, WHAT AFFECTS A HUMAN BODY--
AARRHHH!
SHREEEE
--MAY AFFECT PANDEMONIUM AS WELL!
THOOOOM
HE'S HURT... BUT HOLDING TOGETHER. WE MUST PRESS THE ATTACK.
WAIT! WE CAN'T RISK HURTING THE PEOPLE.
DAMMIT, THAT'S ALL I'VE HEARD FROM YOU! WHAT WE CAN'T DO!
DO YOU EVER INTEND TO OFFER A SOLUTION?

ACTUALLY, YES.
THIS BODY OF PANDEMONIUM'S-- DOES IT HAVE A BRAIN?
YES. IN FACT, THAT IS WHERE PANDEMONIUM'S TRUE BODY IS LOCATED--
AH. I SEE NOW.
YOU DELUDE YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE THE SAME GREAT NEUROSURGEON YOU ONCE WERE. BUT YOU'RE NOT.
YOU INTEND TO PERFORM "BRAIN SURGERY" ON PANDEMONIUM? IN ORDER TO AVOID KILLING HIS VICTIMS, IT WILL NEED TO BE EVERY BIT AS PRECISE AS THE REAL THING.
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO USE? YOUR RIDICULOUS MAGIC SWORD?
NOT A SWORD. A SCALPEL.
AND YES...UNLESS YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
IN POINT OF FACT...

MORTAL WORMS.
YOU WILL *SUFFER ENDLESSLY* FOR THIS! YOU'LL KNOW AN ETERNITY OF TORMENT IN MY NEW HELL!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU *ARE*, TO DO THIS TO ME?
DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE.
AND I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANESTHESIA.
YOUR BEDSIDE MANNER IS *ATROCIOUS.*

SSTHNK
NO!
HURRY, STRANGE! I CANNOT HOLD THEM BACK FOR LONG!
THIS IS DELICATE WORK. A MOMENT MORE...
YOU... DARE?
YOU DON'T THINK I CAN WAGE THIS BATTLE ON TWO FRONTS?

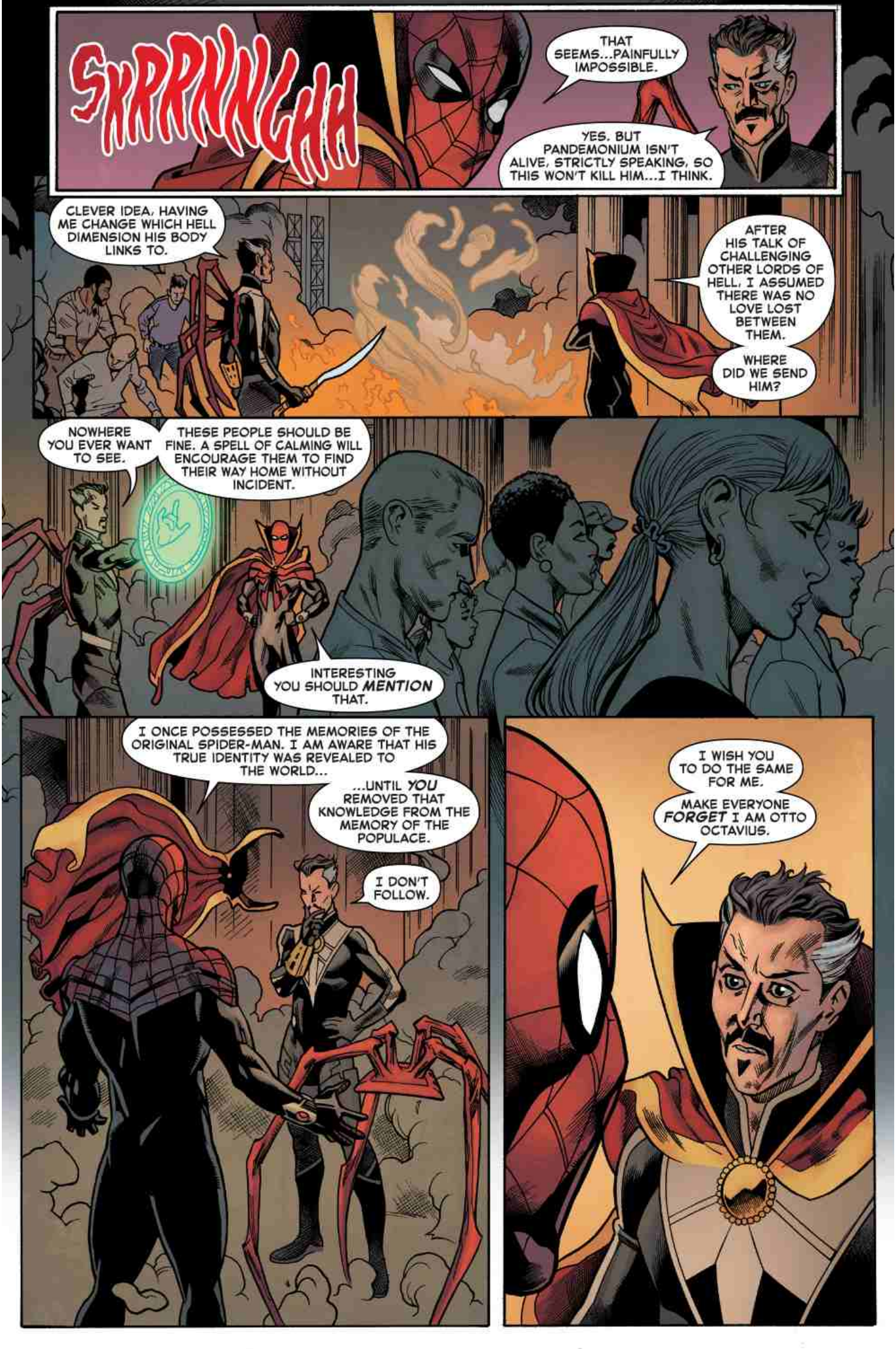
EVERY "CELL" IN MY BODY IS A HUMAN IN MY THRALL! AND LIKE ANTIBODIES, THEY WILL ATTACK AN INVADER RELENTLESSLY!
I'D EXPLAIN... HOW YOUR METAPHOR... IS WRONG...
...BUT I'M TRYING TO WORK HERE.
OCTAVIUS! HE'S FIGHTING ME. DISTRACT HIM!
THROK
ARRHHH!
I'M TRYING, YOU INSUFFERABLE FOP! BUT WITHOUT MY ARMS, I AM... I AM...
I AM STILL OTTO OCTAVIUS.
AND I WIN BECAUSE WHERE OTHER MEN HAVE WEAKNESSES, I HAVE NONE.
PANDEMONIUM! OR SHOULD I SAY MARTIN PRESTON?
SURRENDER. YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN, IT'S PLAIN AS DAY. YOU'RE NO BETTER AN ACTOR THAN WHEN YOU WERE A MORTAL!
H-HOW DARE YOU? I WENT TO JUILLIARD!

PERHAPS YOU HAD TALENT ONCE. BUT IF SO, YOUR WEAKNESS KILLED IT.
THE DRINKING, THE DRUGS...WELL BEFORE YOU WERE MADE OF DEMONS, AS I HEAR IT, YOUR BODY WAS COMPOSED OF *CHEAP WINE!*
HEY, *YOU* TRY WORKING WITH KUBRICK, PAL! EIGHTY-FIVE TAKES OF OPENING A DOOR!
YES, CLEARLY *HIS* FAULT, NOT YOURS. WHICH IS WHY YOU WENT ON TO STAR IN SUCH EPICS AS...*THE TWO-GUN KID MEETS DRACULA*, WAS IT?
I HAD *TOP BILLING* ON THAT! I GOT NET POINTS!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
TALK TO THE HAND!
GNAHHH!

WELL DONE, OCTAVIUS. WHILE YOU HELD HIS ATTENTION, I FOUND PANDEMONIUM'S TRUE BODY INSIDE THE CONGLOMERATE *"HEAD."*
THIS WILL REQUIRE A PRECISION STRIKE... SEVERING ALL CONNECTIONS AT ONCE...
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD MAKE A JOKE ABOUT SQUASHING BUGS. BUT THAT'S WHAT I PAID WRITERS FOR. SO I'LL JUST SAY...
...DIE.
NARRATE YOUR BIOGRAPHY LATER! *DO IT!*

THKK
AARRAAGGHH!
AARRAAGGHH!
FINALLY.
AND THE POSSESSED HUMANS RETURN TO NORMAL...WHICH MAKES SAVING THEM SOMEWHAT MORE PALATABLE.

YOU THINK YOU'VE WON? YOU'VE WON NOTHING!
I STILL HAVE THE POWER TO CRUSH YOU BOTH! MY BODY IS STILL A GATEWAY TO HELL!
YES, I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THAT.
MUST IT ALWAYS BE THE SAME HELL?
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. EXCELLENT POINT.
DO YOU TWO EVER SHUT UP--
HELLO, MARTIN.
IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG.
W-WHAT--?
NOOOO!


SKRRNNGHH
THAT SEEMS...PAINFULLY IMPOSSIBLE.
YES. BUT PANDEMONIUM ISN'T ALIVE, STRICTLY SPEAKING, SO THIS WON'T KILL HIM...I THINK.
CLEVER IDEA, HAVING ME CHANGE WHICH HELL DIMENSION HIS BODY LINKS TO.
AFTER HIS TALK OF CHALLENGING OTHER LORDS OF HELL, I ASSUMED THERE WAS NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN THEM.
WHERE DID WE SEND HIM?
NOWHERE YOU EVER WANT TO SEE.
THESE PEOPLE SHOULD BE FINE. A SPELL OF CALMING WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO FIND THEIR WAY HOME WITHOUT INCIDENT.
INTERESTING YOU SHOULD *MENTION* THAT.
I ONCE POSSESSED THE MEMORIES OF THE ORIGINAL SPIDER-MAN. I AM AWARE THAT HIS TRUE IDENTITY WAS REVEALED TO THE WORLD...
...UNTIL *YOU* REMOVED THAT KNOWLEDGE FROM THE MEMORY OF THE POPULACE.
I DON'T FOLLOW.
I WISH YOU TO DO THE SAME FOR ME.
MAKE EVERYONE *FORGET* I AM OTTO OCTAVIUS.

FIRST OF ALL, I DIDN'T DO THAT ALONE. I HAD HELP. IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT SPELL...AND MAGIC ALWAYS HAS A PRICE.
I'M NOT SURE I COULD RE-CREATE IT IF I WANTED TO...
...AND I DON'T.
HELPING SPIDER-MAN MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO HIS WORK...IMPORTANT WORK, SAVING LIVES.
THAT'S WHAT I DO AS WELL!
IT'S WHAT YOU DO NOW. BUT NOT LONG AGO, YOU WERE IN THE POSITION OF MASTER PANDEMONIUM. YOU WERE THE THREAT.
PEOPLE KNOWING YOU ARE OTTO OCTAVIUS KEEPS YOU HONEST. ACCOUNTABLE.
ALL RIGHT, A SINGLE PERSON, THEN! MAKE ONE WOMAN FORGET.
SURELY YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THIS! YOU, TOO, HAVE A CHECKERED PAST YOU REGRET. WOULD YOU WANT IT TO DRAG YOU DOWN FOREVERMORE?
THE MISTAKES I MADE ARE THE REASON I AM WHO I AM TODAY.
I'VE TRIED TO ATONE FOR THEM. I STILL AM. AND IT ISN'T FOR ME TO SAY WHEN I'VE ATONED ENOUGH.
YOU APPEAR TO HAVE A PROBLEM, OTTO. I SUGGEST YOU GO ABOUT SOLVING IT. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I WISH YOU LUCK. AND ONE PIECE OF ADVICE...
...DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP. THAT'S WHAT FINALLY CHANGED THINGS FOR ME.
THAT'S WHAT I JUST DID, YOU IDIOT.
STILL, THERE IS ONE OTHER I COULD APPROACH...

SOON.
THE APARTMENT OF ELLIOT TOLLIVER, A.K.A. OTTO OCTAVIUS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TOLD HER YOU WERE DOC OCK!
YOU MADE ME PROMISE I WOULD!
NOT ON THE FIRST DATE!
EMMA! I'M SO PLEASED YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.
YEAH, NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS NORMAL.
LISTEN, YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING HOW YOU CAME TO BE TIED UP IN A SUPER VILLAIN'S APARTMENT...
ACTUALLY, ANNA MARIA, I REMEMBER.
DEMON COPS. DEMON ME.
DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT I ALSO KNOW WHAT ELLIOT--SORRY, OTTO--DID TO SAVE ME... TO SAVE ALL OF US.
TSSSSS
TSSSSS
STRANGE...

EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS IS STRANGE.
LISTEN, EMMA, I KNOW IT'S HARD TO PUT ASIDE WHO HE IS...WHAT HE'S DONE IN THE PAST. I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW...BUT A LOT FURTHER ALONG.
I HAVE MORE REASON NOT TO TRUST THIS GUY THAN ANYONE. HE'S A LIAR. A HABITUAL MANIPULATOR. A CRIMINAL.
YES, WE ALL GET YOUR POINT. I TRUST THERE'S A PIVOT COMING...
BUT HE'S TRYING. AND HE'S DOING A LOT OF GOOD.
HE SAVED THE CITY FROM TERRAX, AND NOW THIS MASTER PANDEMONIUM LUNATIC. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I REALLY BELIEVE HE'S BECOMING A BETTER PERSON.
OBVIOUSLY, THE CHOICE IS YOURS. BUT IF YOU CAN SEE YOUR WAY TO GIVING HIM A CHANCE--NOT DATE HIM OR ANYTHING, JUST HOLD OFF ON CALLING THE COPS ON HIM...
OKAY.
I THINK YOU'VE EARNED THAT MUCH, OTTO.
THANK YOU. I SHALL ENDEAVOR TO BE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M GOING TO GO HOME AND WASH THE SMELL OF SULFUR OFF ME.
I'LL SEE YOU BOTH AT WORK. WHERE WE SHALL NEVER SPEAK OF THIS.
OKAY. LET'S TALK FIRST DATE ETIQUETTE.
NO TALKING ABOUT EXES...ESPECIALLY ME. DO NOT SAY "THE DIE IS CAST." IT'S PLAYED. AND FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, NO SUPER VILLAIN STUFF!
PERHAPS I SHOULD TRY AN APP. I UNDERSTAND IT'S ALL ONLINE NOW...

IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, MARTIN.
MY CHILDREN VISIT SO RARELY. ONLY WHEN THEY WANT MONEY, OR REVENGE, OR TO DEPOSE ME AND CONQUER MY KINGDOM.
BUT *YOU*... YOU NOT ONLY CAME HOME, YOU BROUGHT ME SOMETHING.
OTTO OCTAVIUS TRYING TO BE A GOOD MAN?
NOW *THAT* IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING.
HA HA HA HA HAAA!
NEXT: THE WAR OF THE REALMS!

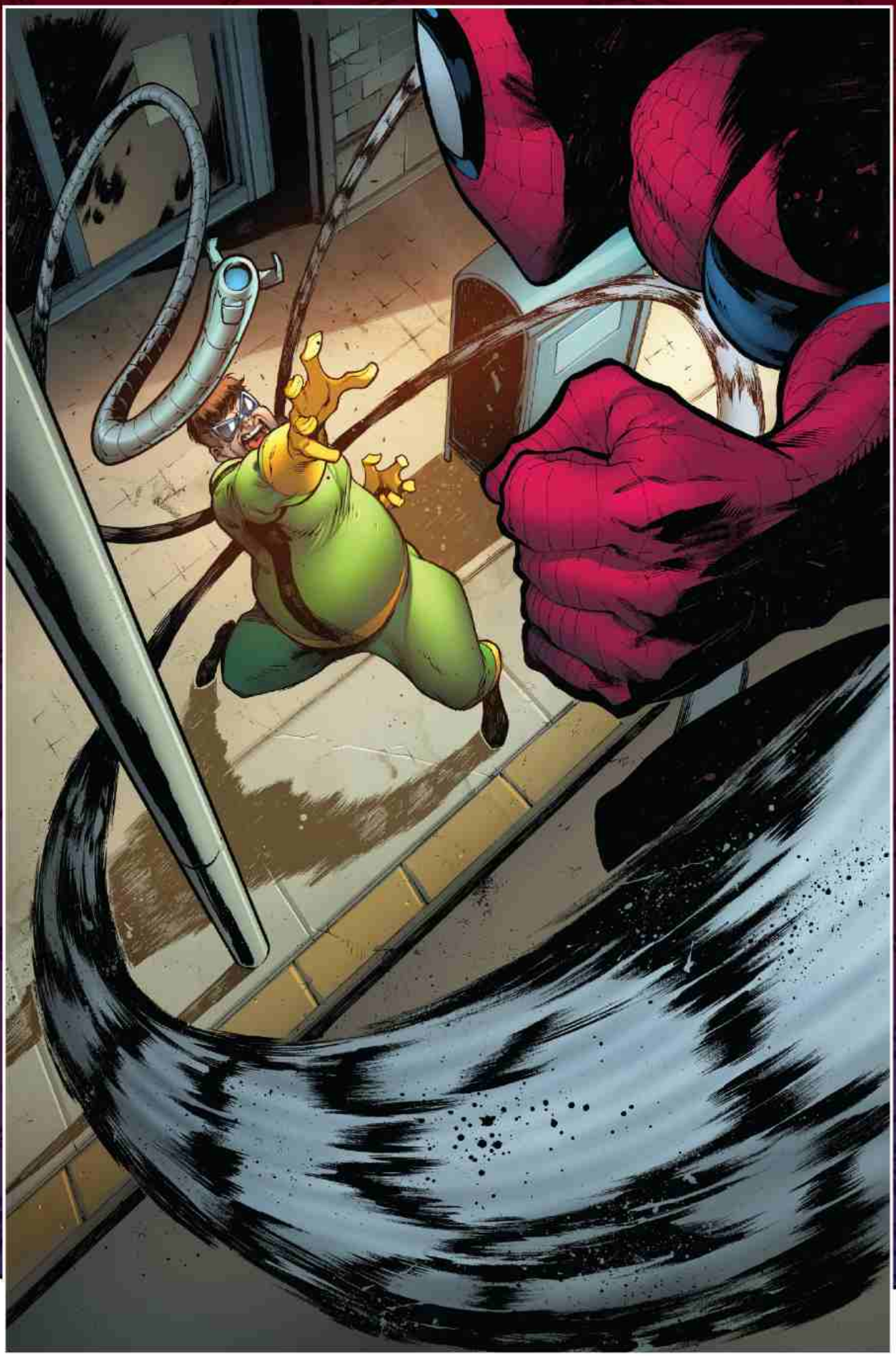
#1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT

BY JOHN BUSCEMA & JASON KEITH

#1 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG

#1 VARIANT
BY EMA LUPACCHINO & JASON KEITH

#2 VARIANT
BY MIKE HAWTHORNE & MORRY HOLLOWELL



#4 SPIDER-MAN VILLAINS VARIANT
BY IBAN COELLO & MARTE GRACIA

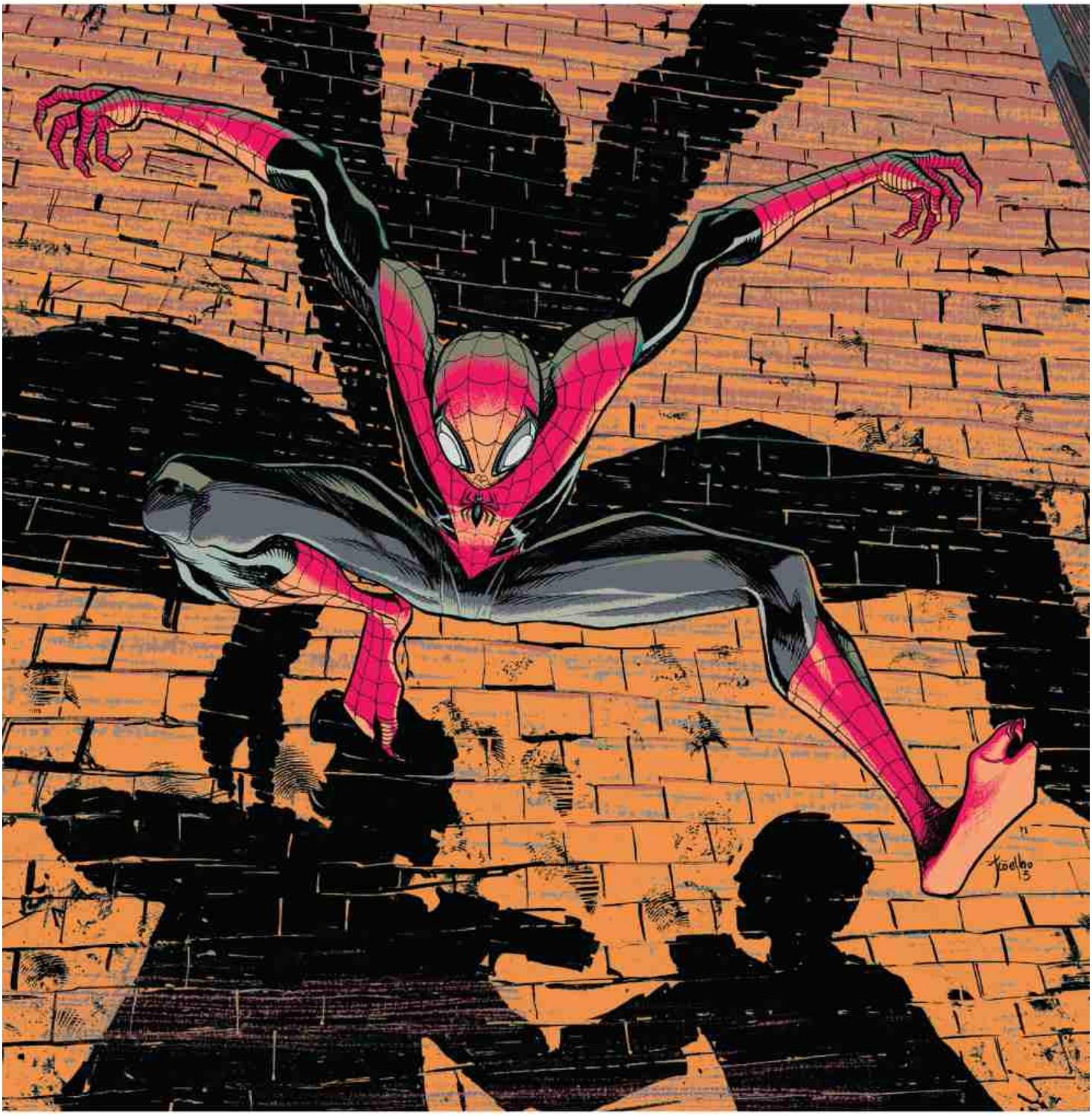
#5 ASGARDIAN VARIANT

BY CARLOS PACHECO, RAFAEL FONTERIZ & MARTE GRACIA

"This series has more than proved its potential as an ongoing."
– Geeked Out Nation

OTTO OCTAVIUS ONCE AGAIN BECOMES THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN!

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE ALREADY READ THE MOST INTENSE, unexpected and surprisingly heartbreaking Superior Spider-Man story there is, prepare to be proven wrong! Leaving the moniker of Doctor Octopus behind, Otto is going to show the world he's the most pragmatic, most effective and – to him, anyway – best super hero on the planet. But when Terrax the Tamer – a villain who considerably overpowers him – strikes, being superior isn't enough. It's time to go cosmic! But is the world ready? After tussling with Terrax, Otto is looking forward to the usual Spider-Man fare of street-level villains – so imagine his dismay when a major magical threat rears its ugly head and he's forced to ask for help! Will Doctor Strange lend a hand or stop Otto himself?



T+

MARVEL

COLLECTING ***SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN (2018) #1-6*** – BY CHRISTOS GAGE, MIKE HAWTHORNE, WADE VON GRAWBADGER, VICTOR OLAZABA, ANDY OWENS AND JORDIE BELLAIRE.

ZONE